



Protect, Prevent, Live Well

July 10, 2012

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, the oldest and most diverse organization of public health professionals and advocates in the world, I write in strong opposition to H.R. 6079, legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

On June 28, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the ACA is constitutional. Instead of bringing this divisive legislation to the floor, Congress should instead focus on ensuring the law is fully implemented to achieve the greatest health benefits for the American people.

Implementation of the Affordable Care Act is critical to addressing a number of the biggest challenges facing our health system including escalating health care costs, uneven quality and deaths due to medical errors, discriminatory practices by health insurance providers and the shrinking ranks of the nation's primary care providers. The ACA is also helping to shift our health system from one that focuses on treating the sick to one that focuses on keeping people healthy.

The ACA expands affordable and comprehensive health insurance coverage to an additional 31 million uninsured Americans; provides mandatory funding for community-based prevention and wellness activities through the Prevention and Public Health Fund; has provided 54 million families with additional benefits, including greater access to preventive health care services such as vaccines and preventive care and screenings for women; 2.5 million young adults up to age 26 are able to stay on their parents' health insurance plans; nearly 18 million children with pre-existing conditions are protected from insurance coverage denials; and nearly 33 million seniors have accessed preventive services now available without cost-sharing through Medicare.

Protecting the ACA and working to effectively implement this critical law will remain a top priority for APHA and we will likely include this vote to overturn the ACA in our 2012 annual congressional vote record.

We ask you to oppose this and any future efforts to overturn the Affordable Care Act and we look forward to working with you on constructive efforts to protect and improve the health of the American people.

Sincerely,

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (E)
Executive Director